

# TETON VALLEY FOUNDATION YOUTH HOCKEY



## PARENT HANDBOOK

*This handbook provides useful information & resources regarding all programs offered by Teton Valley Youth Hockey Association*

***TVYHA is a proud member of USA Hockey & Idaho Amateur Hockey League***

***For additional information, please visit our website***

***[tetonvalleyfoundation.org/cutthroats](http://tetonvalleyfoundation.org/cutthroats)***

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## **Section 1 – Introduction to Teton Valley Youth Hockey Association**

### 1. Mission

It is the mission of Teton Valley Youth Hockey Association to provide a meaningful opportunity for children to experience the great game of hockey and to develop their skating skills and hockey skills to the best of their ability while instilling the importance of sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork.

### 2. Philosophy

Mastery of the fundamental skills and the fun of playing are essential to developing a lifelong interest in the sport. Therefore, TVYHA strives to help skaters develop their skating and hockey skills to the best of their individual ability, while developing good sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork skills. Most of all, TVYHA's goal is for children participating in the program to have fun.

### 3. Sportsmanship

TVYHA places a very strong emphasis on good sportsmanship in the development of the athletes in the program. The organization also places a high priority on the role of parents and coaches in reinforcing these values to the skaters. TVYHS urges all participants and parents to keep playing hockey in proper perspective; family and school are the most important elements in each athlete's development

## **Section 2 – Registration**

### 2.1 Registration with USA Hockey

Before registering with TVYHA, parents must register each child with USA Hockey and obtain a USA Hockey Membership number for each child (this number will be required when registering with TVYHA (website when complete). Registration is required with USA Hockey because USA Hockey is the national governing body for ice hockey in the United States. Most importantly, as a member of USA Hockey, your child will be covered by accident (excess) and catastrophic injury insurance (in each case subject to USA Hockey's policies and procedures). TVYHA is also covered by general liability and other insurance through USA Hockey (again subject to USA Hockey's policies and procedures). Your membership in USA Hockey directly supports screening and training for youth hockey coaches, district and national championships, uniformity in official playing rules, and education and

research in safety and risk management. A full description of the terms of your membership and related benefits is available at [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com) under the tab “membership.”

## 2.2 Registration with Teton Valley Foundation - TVYHA

Every child participating in the TVYHA program must register with the Teton Valley Foundation before going on the ice. The fees for each participant or player must be paid as described below in Section 3.

### **REQUIRED FORMS INCLUDE:**

- USA Hockey Participation Code of Conduct
- USA Hockey Consent to Treat (Medical Form) *USA Hockey no longer requires this form.*
- USA Hockey Waiver of Liability, Release, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement
- TVYHA Parent code of Conduct (*to be determined*)

All required forms must be provided by each player prior to participating in TVYHA activities.

## 2.3 Birth Certificates

All new players to TVYHA must provide a valid birth certificate so that we can verify player’s age. *We will Need birth certificates at REGISTRATION and before your child steps on the ice.*

## **Section 3 – Fees and Scholarships**

### 3.1 Fees

Prior to beginning of each season, the Board of Directors for TVYHA in collaboration with the Teton Valley Foundation will set fees for each team for the upcoming season. Please note the fees do not include the cost of travel. Payment plan options will be described at the time of registration or on case by case basis. TVYHA and the Teton Valley Foundation will strictly enforce the policy of no pay, no play.

A “Volunteer Fee” of \$75 will be assessed at the time of registration for each child participating in the program. This fee has been established to ensure parents participation in volunteer efforts to ensure the success of the program. A list of volunteer opportunities will be made available and disseminated by each parent manager throughout the year. There will be plenty of opportunity to volunteer. These volunteer hours will be tracked by each parent manger. If at the end of the year your volunteer hours have been met, the \$75 fee will be refunded.

### 3.2 Scholarships

A limited number of partial & full scholarships are available. Scholarships are granted strictly on the basis of need – skill level is not a consideration. Information with respect to applying for scholarships will be made available upon request. All information provided in connection with scholarship requests shall be kept confidential. As a condition to obtaining a scholarship, all scholarship recipients shall provide TVYHA with a commitment of volunteer hours/efforts based upon the scholarship assistance provided.

### 3.3 Refunds (Program Start Date of November 12)

The Teton Valley Foundation does not give refunds for things such as rink mechanical issues, weather problems, failure to show up to pre-scheduled program, etc. Just like a ski resort, programs and season passes are purchased at the discretion of the user. That said, there are a few rare exceptions for refunds, primarily medical in nature. Below is our refund policy:

- **Youth Programs including Skating Lessons, Youth Hockey, Girl's Hockey:**
  - **Two practice policy:** We understand that sometimes a program doesn't end up matching the needs of a child. Your child can attend two practices and still receive a 75% refund in cash or a 100% credit in trade if the program does not meet his or her needs. (No medical reason necessary for this scenario).
  - **Injuries:** Once your child has attended two practices or more, Teton Valley Foundation will consider refunds only for medical conditions.

Prior to Dec 1, medical refunds will be given in the amount of 75% in cash or 100% in credit.

Between Dec 1 – Jan 1, medical refunds will be given at a rate of 50% in cash or 75% in credit.

After January 1, NO medical refunds will be given.

## **Section 4 – Teams and Programs**

### 4.1 Teams and Programs

TVYHA offers the following teams and programs:

- Mini Mite - Our Mini Mite hockey program is open to children who are first-time and beginner players. Generally the program is intended for children who are 4-8 years old though older players with no previous hockey experience may also be appropriate for Mini Mite. Mini Mite is designed for children who have little knowledge about the game of ice hockey. We will work on basic skills such as skating stride, how to hold a stick, passing and shooting. In addition to skills, we will teach the rules of the game in a fun and supportive environment. While Mini Mite's will be eligible to play in our home tournament and there may be some scrimmage arranged both within TVYHA and from surrounding communities, as a general matter Mini Mite's do not play games and do not travel.
- Mite – Our Mite program serves children ages 6-8 and implements USA Hockey's Cross-Ice American Development Model (ADM) to maximize the development of skills necessary to learn and play the game of ice hockey. Cross-Ice games are played from side to side in the rink (not end to end), giving the players more puck handling, more shots, more saves and more goals – and more fun. Subject to exceptions determined by our Board of Directors based on extraordinary circumstances (e.g. a child with previous hockey experience moves to Teton Valley), as a general matter in order to participate in our Mite program, a player must have completed Mini Mite.
- Squirt - Our Squirt program is open to players who meet the USA Hockey age requirements for the squirt level, generally 9 and 10 year olds. Our squirt program is a travel program and participants are expected to be willing and able to travel with the team absent extenuating circumstances. A Specific description of our squirt teams for each season will be set forth in the Team Description provided at registration prior to each season. However, subject to year-by-year circumstances or other considerations, the general

expectation is that the squirts will practice three times per week and will play in tournaments. The number of tournaments is still TBD.

- Pee-Wee - our pee-wee program is open to players who meet the USA Hockey age requirements for the Pee-wee level, generally 11 and 12 year olds. Our pee-wee program is a travel program and participants are expected to be willing and able to travel with the team absent extenuating circumstances. A specific description of our pee-wee team for each season will be set forth in the Team Description provided at registration prior to each season. However, subject to year-by-year circumstances or other considerations, the general expectation is that the pee-wees will practice three times a week and will play in tournaments. The number of tournaments is still TBD.
- Bantam – our bantam program is open to players who meet the USA Hockey age requirements for the bantam level, generally 13 and 14 year olds. Our bantam program is a travel program and participants are expected to be willing and able to travel with the team absent extenuating circumstances. A specific description of our bantam teams for each season will be set forth in the Team Description provided at the registration prior to each season. However, subject to year-by-year circumstances or other considerations, the general expectation is that the bantams will practice three times a week, will participate in IAHA (Idaho Amateur Hockey Association) and therefore be subject to all IAHA rules and procedures. The number of tournaments is still TBD.
- High School – (starting 2018-2019 Season) our High School program is open to players who meet the USA Hockey age requirements for the midget level, generally 15-18 year olds. Our High School program is a travel program and participants are expected to be willing and able to travel with the team absent extenuating circumstances. A specific description for each season will be set forth in the Team Description provided at registration prior to each season. However, subject to year-to-year circumstances or other considerations, the general exception is that HS will practice three times a week, will participate in IAHA (Idaho Amateur Hockey Association) and therefore be subject to all IAHA rules and procedures. The midget team is considered a high school varsity sport and will be approached as such in terms of expectations as to player commitment, allocation of playing time, etc. TVYHA will work with the Teton High School to allow our players to earn varsity letters so long as they meet Teton High School's requirements for lettering. Our High School teams will therefore adhere to these lettering requirements, including as they related to academic standards and eligibility.
- Other Teams / Programs – TVYHA may offer other teams and programs on a year-to-year basis as determined by our Board of Directors based on player needs, interest level, etc. A specific description of any such additional teams or programs will be set forth in the Team Description provided at registration prior to each season.

#### 4.2 Annual Team Descriptions

While it is the goal of TVYHA to provide a consistent approach to our programs and teams on a year-to-year basis so that players and parents can know what to expect on a year-to-year basis, the reality of youth sports in less-populated areas such as Teton Valley is that there are a number of variables each year that are largely outside of our control – e.g. how many players sign up for each team, the skill level of those players, the number of teams/skill level of other teams in the region etc. Thus we need to the flexibility to adapt our teams to each year's circumstances. On the other hand, we understand that in committing to a team and paying the fee for the team, parents and players need to have an understanding of the approach to that team, how the team will be managed, a general sense of schedule, etc. In that light, prior to the beginning of each season we will publish a Team Description for each team. The Team Description will include the following information:

- If there will be more than one team at a particular level, how the teams will be divided.

- If teams will be divided based on skill, how and when that determination will be made.
- Who will be coaching at that level and, if there is more than one team, how coaching will be divided between the teams.
- A description of the practices and tournament schedule for the team (if all schedule details have not been worked out by that time we will provide a general description of the approach that will be used for scheduling, including the philosophy with respect to travel and level of competition – e.g. more regional “B” tournaments, etc.).
- The general philosophy / approach to playing time
- Any other team rules / requirements (e.g. practice attendance policies, etc)

#### 4.3 TVYHA Primary Team

We understand that many TVYHA players play for other teams throughout the season. While we fully encourage TVYHA players to take advantage of all opportunities available to them to further develop as a hockey player, it is TVYHA expectation that all registered TVYH players will treat TVYHA as their primary team. Failure to do this could impact player’s good standing and playing time on their TVYHA team

#### 4.4 Playing up

USA Hockey sets a maximum age limit for each youth hockey division and TVYHA follows these age divisions. Under no circumstances are older players permitted by USA Hockey to skate at a younger age level. Moreover, it is not TVYHA policy to encourage younger players to skate up on an older team. However, TVYHA recognizes that situations may arise in which both the player **and** the program may benefit by permitting a younger player to skate up to the next level. In an effort to clearly and fairly define the criteria which would allow a skater to play hockey with an older age group, TVYHA provides the following guidelines.

- The move up must be in the best interest of the organization.
- The move up must be in the best interest of the player.
- The player’s parents must formally request the move up in writing and submit to the Player Development Committee with final approval by the TVYHA Board of Directors  
*To further qualify these guidelines, the following conditions must be met:*
- There must be a logical reason for the petition.
- There must be an imbalance in the number of participants at both affected levels whereby movement creates a better balance.
- The skater must be of better than average ability at the older level whereby his/her participation enhances the practice at the older level
- The player must be deemed physically and emotionally capable to compete at the older level. Both present and previous coach’s opinions will be considered.
- Under no circumstances will the move-up player be eligible for game play if displacement issues exist. That is, game play will only be allowed if there is a need for more players or need for players with unique talents (such as goalies)

In the event that a player meets the above criteria and is granted permission to move up, the player must pay the TVYHA fees associated with the level to which they have moved.

## Section 5 – Coaches

### 5.1 Certification

TVYHA coaches and assistant coaches are all USA Hockey certified, meaning they have all completed the USA Hockey coaching modules, Safesport and seminars. TVYHA-Teton Valley Foundation reimburses coaches and assistant coaches for the costs of participating in Coaching Education Programs, including clinics and age – specific training modules. (\$96 in 2018/2019) All coaches must complete all USA Hockey requirements prior to the first on ice practice and no later than December 1 of the season. It is the responsibility of each coach to complete these modules and report them to the Parent Committee to make sure we are in compliance with USA rules and regulations and to qualify for liability insurance. If this is not completed by December 1<sup>st</sup> the coach will not receive a reimbursement and will not be allowed on the ice until all requirements are completed.

### 5.2 Screenings

USA Hockey mandates screening for all coaches and assistant coaches. Screenings must be completed by November 5<sup>th</sup> of each year. TVYHA – Teton Valley Foundation covers the costs of screenings. Information with respect to screening is available upon request.

### 5.4 Responsibility of Coaches

The PDC (Player Development Committee) guides and assists all coaches in their instruction and coaching. TVYHA strives to develop a common philosophy regarding player instruction and development that is consistent at all levels of the program. Each head coach is expected to hold an initial team or program meeting before the season gets underway to explain the program. Expectations for coaches include:

- Be available for the entire hockey season.
- Have a practice plan for each practice to use ice time efficiently
- Provide a high quality, enthusiastic learning experience.
- Teach and demonstrate life skills such as respect, teamwork, responsibility, discipline and maturity.
- Make every effort to instill an appreciation for the value of hard work, good sportsmanship, teamwork, and individual leadership in all players.
- Make every effort to ensure safety policy and procedures are followed, including completing an injury report if there is an on-ice injury.
- Implement TVYHA discipline policy in accordance with Section 8 of this handbook

The success of Teton Valley Youth Hockey is gauged in part by how well coaches implement these characteristics and are considerate with the overall development of the players, not just their on-ice skills.

### 5.5 Coaches Compensation

We are a volunteer oriented program and coaches and assistant coaches are not paid positions. Any compensation, if any, for head coaches and assistant coaches will be determined by the Board of Directors and the Teton Valley Foundation at the beginning of each season, based on recommendation of the PDC.



## **Section 6 – Organization and Governance**

### **6.1 Board of Directors**

TVYHA is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of parents, coaches and other community members. The Board of Directors is subject to and governed by the terms of the TVYHA Bylaw's, a copy of which is available upon request. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or would like to nominate someone else to the Board, please contact any current Board member.

### **6.2 Committees**

From time to time the Board of Directors may establish committees to support the Board. Committees may focus on a variety of areas including player development, fundraising, events and governance. Committees are typically comprised of board members and other volunteers. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact any current Board member.

### **6.3 Team Managers**

Each team will have one or more parents serve as Team Manager. The Team Manager helps the coaching staff plan and organize the off-ice activities that occur during the hockey season. The Team Manager is also responsible for facilitating good communication between the coaching staff and parents. The Team Manager's duties include:

- Working with the Board of Directors, PDC to determine that the team's schedule is set for the year.
- Compiling and providing the team roster for each tournament.
- Registering and communicating with away tournament coordinator.
- Assisting TVYHA's administrator in collecting paperwork from participating player's families and maintaining a team notebook (approved rosters and consent to treat.)
- Communicating with parents on a variety of team issues. Email is often the most effective and timely way to communicate.
- Distributing game jerseys to team members at the beginning of the season and collecting those jerseys from team members at the end of the season.
- Alerting parents to changes in schedules and upcoming events.
- Preparing for and assisting in the execution of the team's home tournament
- Recruiting parents to help as off-ice officials for home games.
- Tracking parent volunteer hours.

### **6.5 Parent Volunteers**

TVYHA is a volunteer-run organization and we need and require parent participation at all levels – from coaches to timekeepers to Board members. TVYHA must have parent participation from all teams to maintain the high standards that have been established for TVYHA.

#### **PARENT VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT - REQUIRED**

As the Youth Hockey Parent Committee seeks to broaden parent involvement to help grow and support our Youth Hockey Program, we require a minimum volunteer requirement of 4 hour per child enrolled in the program (This requirement is capped at 8 hours and \$150 for families with multiple children). Many youth sports programs implement programs like this, including our local ski team. If you are unable to fulfill your volunteer

requirement you can opt to make an additional \$75 donation. Please select one OR MORE of the following volunteer roles. Email us at [rink@tetonvalleyfoundaiton.org](mailto:rink@tetonvalleyfoundaiton.org) for more info.

**Volunteers/parents wanting to help in the locker rooms must complete the background screening process as outlined by the IAHA (Idaho Amateur Hockey Association);**  
<http://www.idahoamateurlhockey.com/page/show/805089-risk-manager> and complete the USA Hockey SafeSport Program; <http://www.usahockey.com/safesporttraining>.

Larger commitments: 20hrs+

- **Coach:** Must get a USA Level 1 Hockey Certification. Receive player discounts and season pass discounts. Significant time commitment. 2 - 4hours/per week during winter.
- **Parent Manager:** During the season be the coach's right-hand person to help organize players, facilitate tournaments, etc. Average 1 -2hrs/week during the winter.
- **Youth Hockey Parent Committee:** Be involved and development and strategic planning of TVF Youth Hockey as we continue to strive and grow the organizations. Average 2-4 hrs/month year round

Medium Commitments: 10 – 20hrs

- **Ice for Ice Program** - Management at Music on Main. oversee the program through the summer and be there the first couple shows to ensure smooth operations (approximately 10 – 15 hrs for the summer)
- **Pint Night Planning & Execution:** 8 - 10 hrs of prep during the summer (a variety of roles)
- **Hockey fest Organizing Committee:** Help plan & execute this important Youth Hockey fundraiser where we earn more than half of our annual Youth Hockey revenue.
- **Refereeing** – you can become a certified USA Hockey referee which we desperately need and forgo your payment for 3 – 4 games during one home tournament to meet your volunteer commitment.

Smaller Commitments: 5 - 10 hours

- Tournament Timekeeper – half day shift
- Tournament Food Sales: Grilling or breakfast sales
- Misc. tournament tasks & planning
- Ice for Ice - single shift
- Hockey Fest Event volunteer (cooking, entry, raffle prizes, etc)
- Gear Hand Out – help register kids and hand out equipment right before the season starts.
- First week Mini-mites & Mites help – veteran parents can come to the first week of practices to help new Mini-mite/Mite parents figure out the drill (dressing their kids, etc).

--I decline to volunteer and would like to be charged \$75 additional dollars to my total when I check out.

--I understand that if I am unable to fulfill my commitment, TVF will charge an additional \$75 to the credit card on file.

## **Section 7 – Code of Conduct and Discipline**

### **7.1 General Standards of Conduct**

TVYHA expects all coaches, players and families to conduct themselves appropriately, to adhere to the good sportsmanship embodied in the policies of the USA Hockey and to respect the facilities at our home rink and the rinks of opponents. Players, parents and coaches must sign the TVYH Code of Conduct and abide by all provisions at all times or be subject to disciplinary action by the Board. In particular, TVYHA insists upon the following standards of conduct:

- Players, parents, coaches and associated spectators shall not use foul, disrespectful, derogatory or abusive language or gestures.
- Players, parents, coaches and associated spectators will not harass officials or other players, coaches or spectators.

### **7.2 USA Hockey code of Conduct**

TVYHA requires all coaches, players and parents to abide by the official rules and policies promulgated by USA Hockey as set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide including the following:

#### **7.2.1 Parent's Code of Conduct**

- It is not ok to confront a coach directly. Any questions or inquiries must be made through the Parent Manager or youth hockey parent committee.
- Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays for both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after the game or practice – it is destructive.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.

#### **7.2.2 Player's Code of Conduct**

- Play for fun
- Work hard to improve your skills
- Be a team player – get along with your teammates
- Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
- Be on time.
- Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport.
- Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents and officials.
- Never argue with an official's decision

### 7.2.3 Spectator's Code of Conduct

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
- Act appropriately, do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing any items on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.
- Do not lean over or pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgement and integrity.
- Be responsible for your own safety – be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
- Be supportive after the game – win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

The USA Hockey Annual Guide also includes the official rules for youth hockey and other important policies, including Safe Sport Policy, Gender Equity – Co-Ed Locker Rooms and Consumption/Use/Abuse of Mood Altering Substances. The USA Hockey Annual Guide is updated annually and is available on USA Hockey's website.

### 7.3 Zero Tolerance Policy

USA Hockey has instituted a zero tolerance policy that requires all players, coaches, team officials, parents and spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games. Under this policy, penalties will be assessed against players and coaches for unsportsmanlike conduct. In addition, games will be stopped when parents or spectators display inappropriate or disruptive behavior and violate the codes of conduct outlined above. In such instances, coaches must remove the disruptive individuals from the viewing and game area. TVYHA intends to enforce this policy and violators may be subject to further disciplinary actions by TVYHA in the discretion of the Board of Directors.

### 7.4 24 Hour Rule

Parents and coaches should not discuss a game, a game incident or situation that occurred during a game that has provoked an adverse emotional response or created a hostile situation until a **minimum** of 24 hours after the incident. An exception to this policy is physical or sexual indiscretion or any situation that compromises the immediate safety of the children.

Hockey is an emotional sport. The physical battles that players fight for control of the puck can spill on to the bench and stands and create strong reactions from coaches. This intense emotional aspect of hockey is one of the reasons it makes for exciting entertainment.

*For parents, it is important to separate game emotions from the best interests of their child's sports development. For this reason, TVYHA has adopted the "24 Hour Rule." The intent of the rule is to move an emotional and confrontational discussion away from the presence of the players, and to allow the parties to "cool off", compose themselves and put the provoking incident or situation that occurred in perspective before meeting to discuss it. Our Board and coaches are instructed to adhere to this 24 hour rule and thus may elect not to engage in a discussion with a parent or player if it is initiated within less than 24 hours.*

#### 7.5 Discipline

Violation of TVYHA rules (or additional rules established by individual teams and communicated to the players and parents) by players, parents or spectators, whether in connection with TVYHA events or, in the discretion of TVYHA, outside TVYHA, may result in discipline. Depending on the level of infraction, the discipline may be determined by the appropriate coach, Board of Directors and may include a variety of consequences ranging from reduced playing time for a game or games, suspension from one or more games, prohibition from attending TVYHA events for a period of time and, ultimately, expulsion from the TVYHA program. Any discipline decisions made by a coach or the Board of Directors will be made weighing the facts and circumstances of the situation but will ultimately be in the discretion of the decision maker. Our specific policy is attached as Exhibit A to this Handbook.

#### 7.6 Academics

All TVYHA participants are expected to put forth significant effort in their school work and strive to maintain good academic standing. **School comes before hockey!** In connection with providing our midget boys and ability to earn a varsity letter, TVYHA requires these players to follow Teton High School Activity Code of Conduct which includes periodic grade checks. A parent release form must be signed by parents so that grades may be released to the team manager to assure academic eligibility.

### **Section 8 – Other**

#### 8.1 Equipment

A current list of required equipment for each player will be handed out during registration. If you have any questions with respect to equipment for your player, please ask your player's coach.

#### 8.2 Communications

It is important that during registration you provide us with your most current, up to date working email address as a majority of communication will be done through email. Additional information is available throughout the season on our website at [tetonvalleyfoundation.org/cutthroats](http://tetonvalleyfoundation.org/cutthroats)

#### 8.2 Safety; Concussion Policy

TVYHA has instituted the following policy for players suffering from head injuries: The evaluation of an athlete with a suspected concussion should be prompt and thorough. Treatment is individualized according to patient age, concussion history, symptoms, signs and type of sport. All concussed athletes MUST be cleared for return to play by a sports medicine professional. See the *Return to Play Guidelines after Head Injuries* compiled by the USA Hockey Safety and Protective Committee available at; [http://www.usahockey.com/Concussion\\_information.aspx](http://www.usahockey.com/Concussion_information.aspx)

TVYHA encourages baseline concussion testing for all players 10 and older.

#### 8.4 TVYHA On-Ice, On-Bench Participation Policy

Only head coaches, assistant coaches, instructors and players who are registered and insured by USA Hockey and assigned to that particular team are permitted to be on the ice and/or on the player bench during practices and games.

### Exhibit A – Discipline Policy

#### Player Responsibility and Disciplinary Concerns

##### Skater Responsibility and Behavior

In accepting the privileges associated with being a member of TVYHA, a skater accepts certain responsibilities as well. Each skater agrees to abide by the following, as well as what is written throughout this TVYHA Policy Manual:

##### *Responsibility and Behavior:*

- At all times, a skater will represent him/herself, TVYHA, and Teton County, ID in a respectful and dignified manner.
- Read this entire handbook, expect to understand and abide by its contents, and direct questions to the TVYHA Board.
- Treat coaches, teammates, TVYHA staff, Teton Valley Foundation Staff and association property, personal property belonging to others, any and all rink and other facilities with respect. Verbal or physical abuse will not be tolerated.
- Respect the coach's decisions.
- Skaters are expected to represent themselves, TVYHA, and our community in a responsible and positive manner.
- Dress in a manner that is a credit to themselves, the team, and the TVYHA.
- Behave in a courteous and responsible manner while traveling to competitions, eating in restaurants, and whenever the skaters represent TVYHA in any manner.
- Must be polite and respectful of all rink employees at all times and obey rules of respective rink facilities.
- No profanity or otherwise inappropriate and/or offensive language will be tolerated at any TVYHA function. A verbal warning from a coach will be followed by dismissal from practice or game(s) if behavior is repeated.
- Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, including sexual intimidation and harassment with sexual overtones will not be tolerated by TVYHA.

##### *Practice:*

- Arrive on-time and prepared for practice. Team managers or coaches expect to be called if the skater is going to be late or will miss a practice for any reason. Take responsibility for yourself.
- Equipment is critical to practice. Come prepared to skate and participate fully in practice.
- Stay for the complete practice session. If you need to leave early, notify the coach prior to the start of practice.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

Teton Valley youth Hockey Association promotes ethical and lawful behavior in our skaters, coaches, parents and Board. The goal of TVYHA policies on discipline is to address unacceptable behavior and work with the skater and to make a change in that behavior.

Skaters are accountable for their behavior whether they are at a rink for practice, traveling with the team/parents, or within Teton County.

TVYHA will differentiate between behaviors observed by coaches or other TVYHA members and those reported by a third party. Unacceptable behavior observed by TVYHA coaches will be dealt with by the skater's coach, or will be referred to the Board or Discipline Committee by that coach. Behavior observed by a third party requires that a 24 hour "incident report" be completed and referred to the Board or Discipline Committee for action. Report of Concern form is available on the website. No action will be taken by the Board or Discipline Committee without contacting the people involved in the incident and the skater(s)' parents.

The TVYHA discipline policy is based on a yellow card/red card system, as in a soccer game. A "yellow card" is used for minor offenses, and a "red card" is used for major offenses. A series of yellow cards may result in a red card. Red cards may be given independently of yellow cards. Yellow and/or red cards will be placed in a skater's file, and kept for 12 calendar months from the time it was placed into the file. While previous offenses remain on file for one calendar year, previous infractions will be considered if future offenses or repeated behavior is observed. Only TVYHA coaches, Board members, or Discipline Committee (not staff of rinks, parents, other skaters, etc.) have authority to issue "cards".

### OFFENSES THAT WARRANT DISCIPLINARY POLICY

- Skaters who exhibit behavior in violation of the general skater responsibility and behavior that are not deemed worthy of a yellow card offense will receive the following discipline:

- 1st offense: removal from training session and call to parents

- 2nd offense: removal from current and next training session and parent meeting

- 3rd offense: removal from participation for 7 days and parent meeting to discuss program participation.

- All disciplinary action taken will be noted in an incident report form and kept in the skater's file for one calendar year.

### YELLOW CARD OFFENSES

- Willful Disobedience - Including but not limited to: disruptive behavior, vulgarity or profanity, disrespectful behavior toward other people or property, or lying to a coach or assistant coach.
- Violation of rink rules
- Vandalism, including minor damage of TVYHA property or other people's property
- Physical/Verbal Violations toward others
- Fighting, Hazing, Verbal Threats, Sexual Harassment

### YELLOW CARD DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

- 1st Offense
  - Conference with coach
- 2nd Offense /1st Yellow card issued
  - Conference with coach; yellow card placed in skater's file
  - Parents notified, and plans made to correct behavior
  - Possible 1-3 days of suspension from TVYHA program

Notice to Board or Disciplinary Committee

- 3rd Offense / 2nd yellow card issued

Immediate & indefinite suspension from all TVYHA programs

Board or Disciplinary Committee reviews the information and will determine the length of suspension and/or possible expulsion from TVYHA.

#### RED CARD OFFENSES

- Conviction of a misdemeanor or a felony
- Possession of Tobacco
- Theft of personal property
- Tampering with other skaters equipment
- Malicious damage of property belonging to the TVYHA or others
- Violation of TVYHA Drug & Alcohol Policy

#### RED CARD DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

- 1st Offense / 1st red card issued

Red card placed in skater's file

Parents notified

Immediate suspension from all TVYHA programs and activities for up to 2 weeks

Board or Disciplinary Committee reviews the information and will determine the length of suspension

A plan will be made to correct the behavior

- 2nd Offense / 2nd red card issued

Immediate expulsion from all programs and activities of TVYHA for one year (12 month period) from the date of the offense.

#### DISCIPLINE AT AWAY GAMES OR TOURNAMENTS

When traveling to a competition, the disciplinary policy & actions apply, as well as:

*Additional yellow card offenses, at the coach's discretion:*

- Violation of Coach's curfew (night curfew or morning wake-up)
- Misrepresenting the Team (behaving poorly as a guest of another facility, inappropriate language or behavior to another TVYHA teammate or other skaters)
- Skaters failing to exhibit appropriate behavior or found in violation of TVYHA Policy regarding Responsibility and Behavior may be suspended from further competition.

#### SUSPENSION/EXPULSION FROM TVYHA PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

If a skater is suspended from TVYHA programs and activities, they are not allowed to train, travel, or compete with TVYHA. If a skater is expelled from TVYHA, they must also return all rented or borrowed equipment within 24 hours of dismissal. No refund of program fees will be made.

#### APPEAL PROCESS

In the event that the Board or Discipline Committee has made a decision that is contested, the skater or their parent(s) have the right to appeal to the full Board of Directors.